

**MARIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
6:00pm**

**Members Present**

Belvedere: Block, Campbell, Kemnitzer, Wilkinson  
Corte Madera: Beckman, Casissa, Kunhardt, Lee  
Fairfax: Ackerman, Coler, Cutrano, Goddard  
Larkspur: Haroff, Hillmer, Paulson, Way  
Mill Valley: Carmel, McCauley, McEntee, Ossa  
Novato: Athas, Eklund, Lucan, Peele, Wernick  
Ross: Kircher, Kuhl, McMillan, Robbins  
San Anselmo: Burke, Colbert, Fineman  
San Rafael: Gulati, Hill, Kertz  
Sausalito: Cleveland-Knowles, Hoffman, Sobieski  
Tiburon: Fredericks, Thier

**Ex Officio:** Larkspur City Manager Dan Schwartz; Mill Valley City Manager Alan Piombo; Novato City Manager Adam McGill; San Rafael City Manager Jim Schutz; Ross City Manager Joe Chinn; MCCMC Secretary Rebecca Vaughn

**Guests were:** Supervisor Damon Connolly; Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters; District Attorney Lori Frugoli; Nancy Hall Bennett, League of California Cities North Bay Division; Melissa Apuya, District Director for Assemblymember Marc Levine; Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools

**Call to Order**

President Eric Lucan called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers via webinar for February 24, 2021. A roll call of the Marin towns/cities was taken. At least one representative from each of the 11 Marin Cities and Towns were present.

He then called for Public Comment.

**Public Comment - None**

Hearing no public comment, President Lucan proceeded to of introduction guests and a continuation of the introduction of recently elected Councilmembers, begun at the previous MCCMC meeting.

President Lucan introduced the following guests in attendance: Supervisor Damon Connolly, Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Nancy Hall Bennett, League of CA Cities, District Attorney Lori Frugoli, Melissa Apuya, District Director for Assemblymember Marc Levine. He then introduced all remaining Councilmembers who were elected in both March and November 2020 elections, who were not introduced at the previous meeting, and invited them to participate in "Two Truths and a Lie" to introduce themselves.

The following Council members were introduced:

**MARCH ELECTIONS:**

Charles Lee, Corte Madera

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS:  
Rachel Kertz, San Rafael

APPOINTED JANUARY 2021:  
Eli Hill, San Rafael

#### **4. Presentations:**

##### **4.a. Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools – Update to MCCMC regarding the Status of Schools Reopening In Marin**

President Lucan introduced Mary Jane Burke and thanked her for providing this update to MCCMC. As Superintendent of Schools, Mary Jane Burke oversees the Marin County Office of Education. She is responsible for 40,000 students across the county, from birth age to age 22.

Superintendent Burke began with an update on where we are now and stated she would provide background on how we got here. First of all, and I know you've had a chance to talk with Dr. Willis and Dr. Santora over time, but without the County of Marin and our public health partners, there's no way we would be where we are.

**She provided a PowerPoint presentation, which is available to view here:**  
<http://www.mccmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2-24-21-Mayors-and-Councilmembers-Presentation-Final.pdf>

Summary of presentation:

Today, we have 101 out of 115, or 87%, of the schools in Marin County open for some in person learning. Regarding what is considered "In-Person", in our county, that means that in each of these schools, the minimum that students are walking through the door is two times a week and the maximum is five days a week, full days. That's the structure that we have in the county now. 42 of 43 elementary schools, 27 of the 28 K-8 schools, 8 of the 9 middle schools and 5 of 17 high schools. But what we're going to see is starting next week, high schools will begin to open and by the middle of March you'll see 100% of the schools in Marin County open for some in person. We've had over a million student days. And as you're aware, we're very happy to be in the red tier.

Everyone should be so proud of what has happened in Marin County, as many other counties near us have not a single student back into their public schools.

The next slide provides a little bit of background of what's been going on and this is a tribute to each of you and your entire community. March 16 would be the date that schools officially closed in our county. And you may be reminded that we were the first schools to actually close in the state because of Dr. Willis looking ahead and saying, "We need to go ahead and do everything we can now to ensure that we keep kids safe."

But as that was happening, we immediately started opening pop-up childcare programs for first responders, essential workers, and it started actually with our hospital workers. So the very first pop-up childcare, March 16, was the Monday that we closed, by March 19, we had been able to start up six different childcare opportunities for students. These were located exclusively in schools in proximity to the hospitals where the doctors and nurses needed a place for their kids to go to school.

So as that was happening, we began to develop the protocol which we now use, obviously each and every day, with questions such as: What is a small cohort? What do we need to do to ensure that kids are safe? Do they need to wear masks? What does the hand washing look like? Can the cohorts mix, all the things that you've heard about before. And then the other thing we did was develop an actual task force here at the county office.

In the May-June timeframe, we started to pilot the most vulnerable kids back into school, our high risk kids who have had difficulty engaging with the law and alternative ed programs, and our special education students. It became clear right away that if you're a student with very specialized needs, that a distance learning approach was not going to be a viable one for you. So we had a spring pilot and started summer school.

The development of the 30 point guidelines became a foundation not just for Marin, but for the entire state of California. And that essentially said this is what you have to do to be able to reopen safely. By the beginning of June, all the staff was back in person at the county office. In July and August, we were getting ready to develop additional strategies so schools could open in September. September 8 was the first day.

And you may recall that in the very beginning, the state offered waivers so that if you completed a waiver, and you had your 30 point plan completed then Dr. Willis was willing to allow you to open. At that point, we had several schools that opened September 8.

She then displayed a slide depicting where we are as of February 19, 2021. So you can see here that we've had now 101 in person days as of February 19, over a million student days. 72% of our staff is back for some in person. And the data that has become data that the state and nationally is being used shows you that we've only, in terms of in school transmission had 11. Six of them are student to student, three adult to adult, two adult to student and zero student to adult. If somebody says well "Why's that working?" Just know that everything we've been doing from the very beginning, is just assume whether in the community or at a school that everyone you interact with is COVID, a positive asymptomatic, and you'll follow all the protocols.

This data and all that was developed as a result of Dr. Willis, Dr. Santora and our educators became the foundation actually, for all of the Governor's work. And you may be aware that the president of the state board, Linda Darling-Hammond is actually leading the transition team for President Biden. And so our work is helping across the state.

She then explained that, right as schools were starting to close, parents that had more privilege and more money began to develop what they call pods for their students. And they brought groups of students together with an adult to support them during distance learning. And so, in addition to opening our schools, we opened learning hubs for students who were are on free and reduced lunch. There were 33 different locations, the number of partners was unprecedented. But this provided a safe place, connectivity, robust access to the internet, along with some supervision, and there were approximately 150 different cohorts at 33 sites that have been functioning. Just recently, now we're starting to close those down as school begins to reopen. But that's a very strong equity lens that was happening in our county during this pandemic.

She encouraged everyone to view the schools data website:

<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/schools>, which is through the Office of Emergency Services

and is a live linked document. So you would be able to press on one of the green buttons and get more information about an open school. If a school is green, they're open for some in person.

As it relates to our elementary schools, the one elementary school that is not yet open is Lagunitas. And that's the one K-8 as well, but they'll be opening on Monday.

She then displayed a slide based on data from the first day of back in person, September 8, to the break in December, and showed that what we saw is that you're more likely to get COVID not in school, given the protocols and structures, but rather through regular community spread.

And as you may know, there's been controversy about six feet versus four feet versus what the World Health Organization has said, three feet. And so the key is just make sure you follow these protocols to the tee: wear your face covering, make sure you distance when you can, wash your hands and don't come to school if you're sick. And that applies to students or adults. For some of our students with highly specialized needs, and the fact that we serve infants and preschoolers, we have had to have our staff be very, very flexible to ensure that students stay safe, but that also that we aren't just sticking to that you must keep a six foot distance by way of example.

We have, of course, had to close cohorts, and had to have some students actually be removed and the family quarantined, but we have figured out how to do that, and what it looks like. But it's like everything else, once you learn it, you know what to do, and we have people at each school site that are working on that. Also, public health nurses are available to us. And this website <https://sites.google.com/marinschools.org/mcoerethinkingschools/home> will give you all the information and videos et cetera we've been doing since the very beginning of this work.

Superintendent Burke summarized that over 21 community meetings were held, with an average attendance of 615 people per meeting, where anybody could come and have the opportunity to listen to the information. All of these are recorded, all of them have live translation in Spanish, and are also recorded in Spanish so that they're available to the entire community. There have been 16 site liaison meetings with Public Health, with an average attendance of 125 participants per meeting.

There have also been calls with students, and "after school specials". The issues around the social-emotional aspect of all of this have been very significant. So we, in addition, have been working with students county wide, cross cutting the public schools, private, independent schools, and having them come together to also get meetings with public health, their Superintendent leader so that they can ask questions. And then that just gives you a little more of what the trainings are. All of this information is online, if you ever wanted to look at it.

She then displayed a video introducing the High School Student Wellness Series 2021: <https://sites.google.com/marinschools.org/mcoerethinkingschools/mental-health-wellness/student-speaker-series?authuser=0>

She then spoke briefly about testing. There are lot of different models that are available right now related to actual testing, this has also been coordinated with the County of Marin. But you can see here that there's COVID Mobile testing that's available every single day of the week here in our county that's available for anyone to go to, you don't have to have insurance et cetera. And then in addition, for example, here at the county office, you can get tested once a week, we're using the curative testing, which is a self administered PCR test.

Regarding vaccinations, Dr. Willis was the first in the state actually to identify educators as a priority in that essential worker category. And so you may be aware that in January, we had one big session

at the Civic Center, where about 1,200 people were vaccinated in our priority one area, and we worked together to identify what was priority one. Priority one included in person instruction, special education, teacher special day class. Meaning majority of the day, your students were in class with you. These are the more vulnerable children and very often unable to follow a verbal command or wear a mask et cetera. Additional priorities included paraprofessionals that work one to one with students, or in special day classes, food service workers, bus drivers, food service, bus drivers. And then people over 65. We were able to get to about 25% of our schools, which include public, private, independent, and parochial schools in that mix.

She then announced that a press release what just issued today that we're able to begin vaccinating again, so food service workers, essential workers that work in restaurants as well as school employees are going to be able to now look towards getting these vaccinations. Based on my hope and my expectation that we will be able to see that school employees beginning as early as next weekend will be able to start getting vaccinated again. We have about a 4,000 or so that are left that we need to get vaccinated. And what we think is that before the spring recess, which starts on April 4, that all of our school employees will have had both of their vaccinations, so when they return for the spring break, that we should be in good stead.

At some point, we're all going to be moving to a different structure, using the my turn strategy. And it will help us more fully open our schools on behalf of students. We have several districts that are ready to be back five days a week, all kids, full day, once we finish the vaccinations.

She concluded by touching on Senate Bill 86 which would make additional money available for schools. But it is definitely focused on in person instruction to the greatest extent possible. And that the funds can be used to support academic achievement, supplemental instruction, including social-emotional areas.

There is still a lot of negotiations going on with the governor. The bottom line is we have a goal. Our goal is to get all kids back in school full time as soon as possible. And we're definitely getting close. She ended her remarks by reiterating that we owe great appreciation and tribute to the amazing educators who have been involved in this process along the way, to our public health partners, and to the overall community.

Following the presentation, Ms. Burke took questions from the audience. After Q&A concluded, President Lucan continued with the remainder of the meeting agenda.

**5. Committee Reports:** All Committee reports were submitted in writing and are available in the [agenda packet on the MCCMC website](#). President Lucan thanked those who submitted written reports and encouraged the membership to review the reports.

5.a. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) - Supervisor Connolly stated that the written report in the packet is comprehensive and covers: an update on transit operators around the Bay Area, and the challenges they're facing; funding streams that are coming down the pike from the federal government; a legislative update, and a couple items of note that Pat Eklund also commented on. It also includes some interesting initiatives around mobility and the like. An ongoing issue is Plan Bay Area 2050, he will be giving regular updates on that as warranted.

5.b. Association of Bay Area Governments – Pat Eklund, Novato – ABAG is working on the

implementation plan for the 35 strategies that are in the Plan Bay Area 2050. She encouraged everyone to take a look at it because there are a lot of things that are going to be affecting cities and counties in the Bay Area. RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation) will be finalized this calendar year.

- 5.c. MCCMC Legislative Committee – Alice Fredericks, Tiburon – Reported that the Committee took an oppose unless amended position to SB-9, which proposes lot flips and duplexes in single family zoned areas. The Committee discussed broadband issues and the coming legislation, which we'll consider later. And then we had an informal discussion about fire risks, who identifies the fire risk zones, as part of our pushback on housing development in fire risk areas, and eventually in sea level rise areas.
- 5.d. Transportation Authority of Marin – No report
- 5.e. Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) – Dan Hillmer, Larkspur, noted that the report included with the agenda packet is a copy of the General Manager's 2020 Challenges and 2021 Goals report. He found it interesting in that I think that work patterns are changing, and transit patterns will be evolving and it will be an interesting discussion. Finance is obviously very critical.
- 5.f. MCCMC Climate Action Committee - David Kunhardt, Corte Madera, provided an update to the report that was submitted for the packet, as the Committee met this past Monday night with a set of additional new members coming on, and very good attendance from across the county. We have begun to take the best steps towards reduction of our collective carbon footprints. And we had a great presentation from the DriveCleanBayArea.org team. He also announced that he handed over the reins to two new co-chairs of the Climate Action Committee, Urban Carmel, Mill Valley, and Alexis Fineman, San Anselmo.

Regarding LAFCo, Sashi McEntee, Mill Valley, discussed the Save the Date flyer that was sent out with the agenda packet. She explained that LAFCo is doing something different for their annual workshop, and it will be more externally focused. LAFCo will host a couple of panels on shared services and consolidation models that are working in the county, and ways that cities can explore productive ways to do shared services and consolidation. She hopes that everyone will attend. There will be more information forthcoming.

## **6. BUSINESS MEETING**

6.a. Update on City Selection Committee Agenda and Call for Letters of Interest for Appointment to Serve as the Alternate MCCMC Representative to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Executive Board

Secretary Vaughn noted that this item is on the agenda to call attention to the fact that the City Selection Committee is being convened immediately following the conclusion of regular MCCMC meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to appoint an alternate MCCMC representative to the ABAG Executive Board, and the committee received a letter of interest from Ian Sobieski, Sausalito.

6.b. Review of Draft Agenda for March 24, 2021 MCCMC Meeting

Secretary Vaughn reported that she had received tentative confirmation that Congressman Jared Huffman would be in attendance at the next meeting to provide an update to MCCMC. There were no comments from the membership and no public comments received, in person or via email, on the draft agenda.

6.c. Approval of Draft Minutes of the January 27, 2021 MCCMC Meeting

President Lucan called for any edits or corrections to the January 27, 2021 draft minutes. Hearing none, he called for public comment. No public comments were received, in person or via email, regarding the draft minutes, and President Lucan called for a motion.

There was a motion and second (Eklund / Kunhardt) to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2021 MCCMC meeting.

The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 11-0.

After concluding the Business Items on the agenda, President Lucan adjourned the meeting.

**Adjournment**

President Lucan thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:58pm to meeting of the City Selection Committee immediately following the MCCMC regular meeting and then to the next regular meeting scheduled for March 24, 2021 to be held via Zoom videoconference.